

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH WALT WHITMAN AND KEKI N. DARUWALLA'S POEMS

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ABSTRACT

Walt Whitman and Keki N. Daruwalla respected women. They were against any kind of injustice towards them. Walt Whitman loved women as he found them strong and bold. Keki N. Daruwalla felt that women should not be sold but they should be taught some skills so that they are self dependent. They felt women can also help in the development of the nation. They should be taken care of and not misused or abused. Though government of India is doing a lot for the upliftment of women but much more has to be done. Women have already proved themselves. Girl child should not be killed neither dowry deaths should take place. Human rights should be given to all. As Swami Vivekananda said "If a man is educated an individual is educated if a woman is educated the whole nation is educated." Women should be given equal opportunities. Their health and education should be given most importance. This world can't exist without them.

KEYWORDS: Skills, Self-Dependent, Upliftment & Dowry

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INTRODUCTION

Keki N. Daruwalla and Walt Whitman both are eminent poets. They have tried to express their sadness looking at the plight of women through their poems. They have tried to discuss the issues of women. How they are sold. They are not given justice. They are exploited. They have tried to make people aware through their poems that women should be given equal rights as they are also part of society. Their human rights should not be violated. The government has made laws for them and since past many years many changes have been brought but much more has to be one to raise the status of women in society.

Keki N. Daruwalla

Keki N. Daruwalla discusses about the pathetic plight of women. How women are sold in mela. How old men buy them. Handicapped men also buy them. Some men buy the girls younger than their own daughters. This should be stopped. There is flesh trade which is going on in India and even in other parts of the world.

The government says that the prostitution is banned on the G. B. Road in Delhi but then where are these ladies going to go. They would spread in other parts of India. Though it's banned but it is still taking place in the interior parts of our country. What other work they are going to do as they are not skilled or trained.

Woman should be given Justice-Woman should be given justice if any injustice takes place against them if they are exploited or cruelty is done against them. Many dowry deaths take place in our country. Women are killed after marriage for more demand for money by their in-laws. This thing is against human rights. Women's voices should be heard in the court. Women should not be considered as a commodity. They should not be thought as inferior.

They should be respected-Women should be respected. They should be given equal status in society. They should be educated and given equal employment opportunities'. They have proved themselves in every sphere now. People they worship Durga and Kali like that people should worship women too. They should not be hypocrites.

They should be given Equal Opportunities-Women as they have equal strength and are same energy wise they should be given equal opportunities whether for job or education. They can do better in every department as well as in every walk of life. More employment opportunities should be generated-Women their skills need to be developed whether in computers or technical things or art and craft. Women can do well in engineering to being a scientist to a being a great politician and history is proof that they have proved themselves. Though we can see their state has improved and countries are doing well but much more has to be done on government's part. The change has to take place from home itself.

Women should not be Exploited-Women are taken as a commodity. They are exploited. They work at home but they are not paid. Their health and education is neglected. People feel that if they would spend in their education it would be wastage of money. Women are thought to be a commodity to be enjoyed and to bear children. After marriage they are taken care of till they bear children and after the birth of the child they are neglected.

Women are sold to those who are Elder to them-Women are sold to the highest bidder in melas. There are no rules against this. This thing is taking place like a very normal thing. An illegal thing seems very legal in India according to Keki. N. Daruwalla.

Some old men buy girls but this should be stopped-Old men buy girls of very young age but this should be stopped. How can a country develop like this because Swami Vivekananda said "**if a man is educated an individual is educated but if a woman is educated the whole nation is educated**".

Sad at the Pathetic Plight of Women-Keki N. Daruwalla was sad at the pathetic plight of woman. He was sad to see this state of woman. Keki N. Daruwalla felt that woman should be empowered. They should be given technical training then only their state can improve. Women should be given respect from home itself.

Girls should not be killed while they are Being Born-Killing of girl child is also very bad which is taking place in our country. People try to find out what is it a female or a male child before birth only and a girl child is killed before they are born either they are aborted or killed. Some people throw them away to die after they are born.

They are not given equal rights to property in their ancestral house. They voices or advices are not heard at home. They are neglected. They are found to be inferior. Where in one place people worship goddesses but here one can see pathetic plight of women thus the poet means to say that is this the place of hypocrites where we are living.

Women should be given important place in society. They should not be raped which can be found to be taking place in large numbers and many of them go unnoticed. The numbers have only increased since independence.

Women are worst victim during draught and flood. During draught there is no food to eat and the farmers are in loss as they didn't have any profit. Women they have to sell their flesh for survival. Armymen they leave for job leaving their wives and children behind on farms behind women have no other option but to survive by selling their body. During flood everything is washed away homes property, crops as well as animals. Women at that time they are taken to the rescue camps. They are worst victim of the same.

WALT WHITMAN

How black women were made Slaves-Walt Whitman shares about how the black woman were made slaves. They were sold. They were asked to work as slaves. They were forced to do the work they didn't wanted to do.

They were thrown into Prostitution-Walt Whitman says in his poems that how ladies were thrown into prostitution. They were sold to the highest bidder. Mainly the businessmen they were into this trade. Black women were sold all over the world.

They were not allowed to Education-Black women were not give the right to education or employment. There was discrimination done on the basis of race and colour. Black women they were exploited. Men didn't respect them and even the children didn't respect their mother.

Women are Strong Enough-Walt Whitman feels that women are beautiful and also bold. They are courageous. They have the strength as man. They are not inferior to men. God has made them equal to men.

God has Made both of them Equal in Strength-Walt Whitman feels that women are robust. They are polite but then can even scream. They are sweet but hey can be bold and aggressive too. They can also fight they can be like lion infront of dangers.

Women should be allowed to get be Married and have kids-Walt Whitman feels that women have a purpose in life. They should get married and they should have children. When they will have children then only they would become great athlete or scientist. They would become great leaders and thus add to the glory of the nation. They are beautiful and therefore they should make love. Walt Whitman says he likes robust women who wants to make love. He is happy to see them and be in their company. He feels that all women should be respected despite whatever work they do. Walt Whitman feels that women should walk hand in hand with man and they should have some aim. He felt they can also help in the development of the nation. Women should also walk out of their homes and help in building the nation.

The love and respect for women Walt Whitman had can be seen and felt in Walt Whit men's poems:

In the Cradle Endlessly Rocking: The poet feels that woman is submissive to men due to sex. They are always in pain. They only have to bear children. He felt pity looking at heir state. They could not grow or develop themselves. He loved women and respected them.

He believed in big families women with lots of children. He had old and traditional way of thinking. He was conservative in his outlook. He loved the ladies who had more kids. He felt that women had no life of their own. They had no identity. He liked being in the company of stereotype woman. He didn't wanted to bring changes or reform in their lives.

There was a Child Forth is that of an Ordinary House Lady: The poet is of this thinking that woman are superior to male because they bear the child especially the male child. Man is born out of woman therefore he feels that woman is strong enough to do any kind of work.

He had put everyone in dilemma confusion because people doubted the abilities of woman. People were narrow minded and thought that woman could only do household work and look beautiful. Women were not given much of importance.

Democratic Vistas: In this poem Whitman tries to discriminate on the basis of gender male and female. He feels women are sweet natured but strong they can read and write. They can teach, they are bold and competent enough. They can even train men. He thought that they should be provided with a class of education or occupation.

In Specimen Days: Whitman complains that women he saw on a trip to the west were like delicate beautiful dolls type. But he feels those women are beyond their looks and body. He was interested in women who were intellectuals like George Sand, Margaret Fuller, James Wright etc. It demonstrates his acceptance of intellectualism in women.

Specimen Days: It proves that his criticism is not sexist class oriented. He feels that ladies who are beautiful, well dressed with good manners they may not have perfect healthy body or might be they not competent enough. They are not of the same mental level like men.

Parentage: Whitman believes that most important of all science for how long will this darkness be tolerated.

A Woman waits for me: Poem of procreating: Here the poet describes his feeling that can be of a father that he wants to have children. He wants to increase his breed or race. He feels that he should leave his children on this earth so that his race survives even in future to come. He feels that getting married is important and that two things should be taken into consideration that is the physical health as well as the longevity of ancestors. They should not have abusive past because that can lead to weak health. If the person to whom one is getting married to their parents had long life, their character should be kept into consideration. These things are carried on from one generation to another through genes. Their moral values should also be considered so that one can pass it on to other generations to come. They can have healthy and responsible children.

On the Beach at Night Alone: In this poem the poet tries to describe that he is not alone that he is near the sea beach he can listen to its roar and he can hear the sea. It seems beautiful to him like mother he feels that she is love and death through her knowledge is poured. He tried to express intense devotion to God motherhood which was not acceptable in the Victorian age, it was a kind of age when more emphasis was given to women that they should have children only and that they should enjoy sex only and have kids.

A Woman waits for me: He tries to describe about sex that he loves women who are hot blooded and robust. He feels that they are sufficient for him, he dismisses impassive women.

On the Beach at Night Alone: Sexualize the mother figure he feels that sexuality and motherhood are one and the same. A mother also feeds the child through breast. A child is attached with mother through breast and same happens while making love. But he feels that mother is a teacher who teaches her children.

She is not a lover or temptress she is more responsible woman but he also feels that young woman and mother are one and the same.

A Woman waits for me: I sing the body electric the poet tries to describe ideal sex one should not be ashamed of having sex he doesn't call females body as that of a lover right away. He says that sexual union is like that of blending of day and night.

It's more kind of mystic and erotic one after the child is born of a woman and man is also born of woman. Submissiveness as a feminine virtue he felt that women are beautiful. She gives birth to the child first and then when grows up it can be distinguished whether it's a girl or a boy.

According to the experience he says that a woman is the mother of man, there is unity in soul and body as they are one and the same. Their actions are also the same. But he also feels that woman's body is not only for man's enjoyment. He wanted it to develop fully. He was in favor of women. He was also a feminist.

He wanted that they should go for self realization. He felt that women are beautiful they give birth to a child first and then one grows up it can be distinguished whether it's a girl or a boy according to the experience he says that women is the mother of man.

There is unity of soul and body as both are one and the same. Their actions are also the same. But he feels that women's body is not only for man's enjoyment. He wanted that they should develop fully. He was in favor of woman. Infact he was a feminist. He wanted that they should go for self realization.

In I Sing the Body Electric: The poet feels that woman should not be sold their body is their soul and how the soul can be sold. They have the capacity to have children of their own they can love. He is little bit confusing and contradictory at places.

In the Drum Taps: The speaker stands dumbfounded before the mystery of Madonna and child. We can find relationship between him and his mother but it was not as such in that era this was not encouraged. People wrote about motherhood, love, spirituality, mysticism etc. Christian marriage, spiritual magnetism was taught during Victorian era.

But Whitman mainly wrote about his own life his relation with his mother. He believes in love between man and woman. They are innocent. Their intuition and intellect both will enable man to understand life.

Walt Whitman is against any logical processes he does not trust school of thoughts he is against any kind of discrimination. He doesn't want to follow any school dogma or creed. He wants to be free like air. He wants to partake the bounties of nature.

I hear it was charged against me in this poem the poet tries to tell that he want to seek ultimate true reality of life without any rules or argument. He wants to be one of the powers of the movement of anti rationalism that emerged towards the end of nineteenth century.

SUGGESTIONS

Women should be given training and taught skills-Keki N. Daruwalla feels that women should be given all kinds of training like technical and other training like tailoring, cooking, sewing etc so that their talents are developed and they can become self –dependent. Government should help in their development and welfare. Government should focus more on them on their development then only women will be able to help in the development of country.

Women should be Given Justice-Women should be given justice their voices should be heard. It should not be neglected. If any injustice is taking place against them then strict action should be taken and thus they should be given justice accordingly.

Women should be Respected-Women should not be only taken as a commodity or like an item for enjoyment. Their dreams and ideas should be respected. They should be given wings to fly.

Women should be given Equal Opportunities-Girls can do better than boys if they are given the same

opportunities. Girls have proved themselves whether in sports or as leaders like for example: Ms. Indira Gandhi, Saina Nehwal, Indira Nooyi, Sania Mirza, Kalpana Chawla etc. Therefore women should be given all facilities they require.

More Employment Opportunities should be Generated-Women they should be given employment opportunities. The women should get employment in all companies as well as industries. In all departments seats should be reserved for them whether its parliament because more lady politicians means that more solution to women's problems. They can understand and solve their problem.

Women should be given Equal Status in Society-Women should be equal status in society. There should not be any discrimination on the basis of gender. Women should be loved and respected. Their advices should be heard. Sometimes it happens that women are paid low wages for the same or equal work in comparison to men. They should be paid equally for equal work. They should be paid same as men. Even they have equal responsibility towards their home and children.

Women should be given Respect: Country can only develop when they have good kids. Kids can be developed through mothers as they can only bring children in this world.

CONCLUSIONS

Walt Whitman and Keki N. Daruwalla were staunch supporter of women. They wanted that women should be given respect. They should be given equal rights. The human rights should not be violated. Women have right to education, right to marry and right to employment. There should be no hindrance in their growth and progress. They can also help in the development of the nation. Their advices should be taken into consideration. Their health and education should not be neglected. Their development means the development of the nation. Though there is scholarship programmes taking place for the girl child for their education and welfare but much more has to be done in this regards.

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